

JERSEY VILLAGE STAR

April 2002

ON THE HORIZON...

■ **City Council election** to be held May 4, 2002 for Council members for place 1, 4, and 5. The polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at City Hall, 16501 Jersey Drive. Early voting: weekdays, April 17-30, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., with special extended hours on Saturday, April 27th, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ **Water Supply Town Hall Meeting** -- North Harris County Regional Water Authority will hold a special Town Hall forum on Monday, April 8th, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Jersey Village Civic Center, 16327 Lakeview Drive. Come, learn first-hand about our community's water issues.

www.jerseyvillage.info

*Welcome
Spring!*



COUNCIL VOTES TO AWARD FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT



City Council acted at its March 18, 2002 meeting to conditionally award the bid to **Construction LTD** for the construction of a fire station for \$2,239,400, on the condition of the sale of the bonds.

The current station was constructed in the 1960's to house garbage trucks and was converted to a fire station in 1970's. There have been two updates to the building since that time, but it's sadly outdated and overcrowded condition prompted residents to vote for the new station in the recent Bond Election.

According to Fire Chief Kathy Hutchens, "We are extremely grateful to Village residents for supporting the new station construction project. We take great pride in providing the best possible emergency services to our citizens, and having this updated facility will certainly help us accomplish this goal. We know how much you rely on us to be there in emergencies," she continued, "and this new facility will help us recruit and retain a good corps of volunteers."

(See Chief Hutchens' article that begins on page 2.)

JERSEY VILLAGE EMERGENCY SERVICES – 2001

During this past year, we have begun to use the name “Emergency Services” in order to better reflect *what we do* in providing the wide variety of programs and services offered to the citizens of this community. Here’s an update of what we’ve been doing in recent months that may provide a more complete picture of our activities.

We kicked off 2001 by relocating our administrative offices to the temporary facilities in the old Church of Christ. After moving offices, storage, and training areas, the volunteers began the renovation of the portion of the building that would eventually house the department’s vehicles. This renovation included removal of existing walls, ceilings and HVAC equipment and the construction of new supports to raise the ceiling to a height that would accommodate most of the fire vehicles.

We also constructed several barrier walls to provide a means of keeping exhaust from the office areas. This renovation, completed over a 4-month period, was accomplished with hundreds of hours of volunteer labor with the city’s only cost being the purchase of needed materials.

Last September, the move of the department’s vehicles was made so that all aspects of the department’s operation were at a single location.

Volunteers Needed...

Recruitment and retention of volunteers remains one of the Department’s highest priorities. During the year, a total of 43 people participated in emergency responses. Unfortunately, some of these people have moved from the Village and are no longer able to continue their participation.

The current membership stands at about 35 active firefighters or EMS personnel. We are actively looking for people who want to make a difference in this community. The City covers the costs of training and providing equipment for our personnel, but what we are seeking from the volunteer is **time and commitment**.

New firefighters are sent through a cadet training program sponsored by the NW Harris County area departments, and new EMS personnel go through training normally taught at local community colleges. Certification in these disciplines is obtained through the Texas Department of Health for EMS personnel and the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association for firefighters. In addition to the initial training for recruits, all members attend weekly training at the fire station in order to keep current with skills and information.

New Equipment...

During the flooding last June, the department transported approximately 200 people from their homes to safe areas using boats that belonged to some of our residents. These boats were not designed for rescue and we cannot consider them a reliable emergency resource. Since the flood, the city has acquired a rescue boat and three military vehicles that can be used in high water.

There is a new early warning system offered by the 9-1-1 network expected to be available by the end of this year. While everyone may agree that disaster preparedness is important, attendance



was very low at the Disaster Preparedness classes offered recently by the Department. These classes will be offered again in the next few months, and we hope that more JV residents will come learn what they can do to protect themselves and to minimize potential property damage.

In December, the emergency services team was thrilled to take delivery of our long-awaited rescue truck. The truck is currently housed in the tent that sits in front of the temporary fire station.

The rescue truck replaces a 1982 Chevrolet that was seriously outdated and incapable of carrying the equipment needed on a regular basis for the variety of rescue operations to which the department responds.

Who Needs Us...

Typically, EMS calls constitute about two-thirds of the emergencies handled by this department. Because of the large number of water rescues during the June 9th flood, our EMS numbers show a higher percentage this year.

An EMS call is any type of call where we see a patient. It does not necessarily mean that we transport that patient to a hospital, so all rescue calls are considered EMS calls. During 2001, we were proud to have four documented CPR “saves” (resuscitations).

Recently, the department

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Officer Recognized for Prompt Action

When it comes to successful law enforcement, sometimes the best asset an officer has is timing -- being in the right place at the right time. Last November, Jersey Village Police Department Officer **Barbara Morris** demonstrated the truth of that axiom.

A burglar alarm alerted police that there was a problem at the Jersey Meadow Golf Course, and after arriving on the scene, officers discovered that entry had been made to the golf cart storage barn and several of the carts were missing. As Morris was searching the area north of the cart barn, she observed several carts in a pond. She continued her search and soon observed another cart near the fence that separates the golf course from Winchester subdivision, and saw three people sitting on the cart or standing nearby. As Officer Morris alerted Dispatch of her observations, the suspects heard the radio and ran. She chased them at a dead run, kept them in view, and watched them jump a fence behind a residence in the Winchester subdivision.

Officer Morris informed Dispatch about the location of the suspects and they, in turn, kept JVPD and Harris County Sheriff's Department personnel current as the chase evolved. Most importantly during this process, Officer Morris was able to identify the location of the residence in which the suspects sought refuge and relay that information to Dispatch, as well. Her alertness and quick action allowed officers to locate and arrest the people responsible for the break-in and equipment damage at the golf course. Those apprehended subsequently confessed to their actions and were charged.

Officer Barbara Morris has been employed by the Jersey Village Police Department for 17 years. She started with the Department as a Telecommunications operator in 1985, and while performing in this capacity,



Officer Barbara Morris

Barbara completed the requirements of the Law Enforcement Training Academy.

Barbara became a reserve officer in September 1985, and a full time Police Officer in 1988. She has served as a Patrol officer, D.A.R.E. officer, Bike Patrol officer, and a member of the K-9 team. She has two children and one grandchild.

Congratulations, Officer Morris, for a job well done. ■



BEHIND THE BADGE



Officer Sandy Joachim, the author of the Star's crime prevention column (page 3), has been a police officer since 1987. She started out working for the Brenham Police Department and then joined the Jersey Village Police Department in 1991. She is currently assigned to the Crime Prevention/D.A.R.E./G.R.E.A.T. unit. Officer Joachim has recently reached her goal of earning credentials as a Master Peace Officer with the state of Texas. She takes great pride in teaching children the dangers of drugs and gangs, and says, "Education at an early age will make a difference on the war against drugs and gangs."

As a wife and a mother she is very involved in her daughter's school and sports activities. Officer Joachim's hobbies include outdoor activities, collecting carousel horses and key chains and spending time with her family and friends.





Attention: Senior Citizens! Learn to Fight Crime

By Officer S. Joachim

Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility, not just a job for the police. Crime can be reduced by taking simple measures like remembering to lock a door, knowing about common con games, and watching out for your neighborhood.

Seniors are more vulnerable to certain crimes—purse snatching, con games, and fraud. But you can reduce opportunities for criminals to strike by being careful, alert, and a good neighbor.

When you're out:

- If you must carry a purse, hold it close to your body.
- Never carry a wallet in your back pocket. Put it in an inside jacket pocket or front pocket.
- Make sure someone knows where you're going and when you are to return.
- Avoid dark, deserted routes, even if they're the shortest.
- Whenever possible, travel with friends to stores, the bank or the doctor.
- Have your car or house key in hand as you approach your vehicle or home.
- When you drive, keep doors locked and windows up. If you have car trouble, be wary of strangers who offer to help. Stay in your car and ask them to call the police.
- If a friend takes you home, ask them to wait until you are safely inside.
- Communicate the message that

you are calm, confident, and know where you are going. Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave.

When you're at home:

- Use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors. Keep your doors locked at all times, even when you're inside.
- Make your home appear occupied when you go out by using a timer to turn on lights and a radio.
- NEVER let strangers in your home without checking their identification. Call their company if you're not sure.
- If you live alone, don't advertise it. Use only your first initial in phone books, directories, and apartment lobbies.
- Get to know your neighbors and keep their phone numbers handy for emergencies.
- Work out a "buddy" system with a friend to check on each other daily.
- Don't hide extra keys under a doormat or other obvious spots.

Protect your money:

- If you receive checks in the mail regularly, arrange for them to be sent directly to the bank instead.
- Avoid carrying large sums of money.
- Don't display large amounts of cash in stores or other public places.



- Don't sign a check or contract until you're sure it's for a legitimate reason and know the details.

Check with a friend, lawyers, or police officer if in doubt.

- Never put your purse or wallet on a counter while you examine merchandise in a store.

Don't be conned:

- Keep informed about the latest con schemes in your community by reading the newspaper.
- Be especially wary of: "get rich quick" schemes for which you have to put up "good faith" money.



- "Good deals" on expensive repair or home improvement jobs.
- Investments that promise unusually large returns.
- Someone claiming you owe money for an item ordered by a deceased spouse or relative.
- Work at home schemes, door-to-door sales, supplemental Medicare insurance, miracle cures, glasses and hearing aids at bargain prices.

Take Action Today!

Stay active in your community. It will help you feel safer and help to make your neighborhood a better place to live. ■





Howard Mead (left), Jersey Village American Legion Post 324, came to the March Council meeting to present two certificates to the City of Jersey Village. Mayor **Ed Heathcott** accepted a Certificate of Appreciation for contributing to the advancement of The American Legion, and another for the City's display of the American Flag.

ACTIONS BY COUNCIL -- MARCH 2002

1. Draft rules and regulations for public use of the Civic Center facility sent for legal review; will come back to Council for action in April.
2. Council awarded contracts for the Tahoe Lift Station Rehab and paving, storm sewer and water line improvements on Lakeview, Philippine, Hamilton Circle and Rio Grande Drive.
3. Council asked the City engineer to evaluate bids for the City's sanitary sewer rehabilitation and report at next Council meeting.
4. Approved connection of Jersey Meadow Drive with driveway to the Jersey Meadow Golf Course.

A good time was had by all at The Bunny Hop, held in the JV Civic Center on March 23rd...



CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL...MAY 4 ELECTION



- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| City Council Place No. 1 | Bill Walker
Rusty Preece |
| City Council Place No. 4 | Ernie English
Russell Hamley |
| City Council Place No. 5 | A. J. Widacki
James H. Fields |

**MONTHLY STATISTICS,
February 2002**

JV Police Department:

Calls for Service	457
Vehicle Theft	7
Theft	4
Burglary, business	2
Burglary, vehicle	7
Narcotics, felony	1
Minor accidents	61
Major accidents	4
Alarms	58
Suspicious person	28
Traffic control	63
Traffic hazard	20

JV Emergency Services Dept.:

Fire/County	11
Fire/ETJ	1
Fire/JV	8
EMS/County	7
EMS/ETJ	1
EMS/JV	27
TOTAL	55
Transports	24
Mutual aid received	2
Mutual aid given	18

Announcements:



The **Jersey Village Garden Club** is having their annual Horticulture and Flower Design Show on Tuesday, April 9, 2002 at Jersey Village City Hall Meeting Room (former Council Chambers, 16501 Jersey Drive). The public is invited to see the exhibits from 11:30 a.m to 3:00 p.m.



added two new pieces of equipment to assist with patient care. The first is the capability to provide nitrous oxide (laughing gas) for pain management. Nitrous oxide is the one type of pain management that is self-administered and has fewer associated hazards than drugs such as morphine.

The second piece of equipment is a 12-lead EKG monitor/defibrillator. This machine allows our paramedics to perform a diagnostic test that assists in cardiac treatment in the field and in transport to a medical facility.

ISO Goals...

The department is actively working towards achieving a lower ISO rating for the citizens of Jersey Village, which will save on insurance premiums for both residences and businesses. The rating is based on an evaluation of a city's water system, fire department, and communications capability.

Some of the items required to improve our ratings include: fire hydrant and flow testing done twice annually; annual pump tests, multi-company training exercises, and a vastly increased level of record keeping.

Community Services...

- Additional services that we offer to the community include:
- CPR and First Aid classes;
 - Fire Extinguisher classes;
 - Voluntary home inspections;
 - Code-compliance business inspections;
 - Fire safety and fire prevention education;
 - Lock-box program for disabled citizens;
 - Child car seat installation;
 - Disaster preparedness classes;
 - Citizens fire academy.



Chief Kathy Hutchens



On March 23rd, the department hosted its annual dinner which honors its volunteers. During this event, several of the its members were honored for participation and for displaying those characteristics thought to be highly valued by its members. Honorees were:

Firefighter of the year – Zach Maher

EMS Member of the Year – Allison Clement

Rookie of the year – Billy McCrea

Member responding to the most calls – Hank Taylor

Member attending the most training – Michael Bunn

Also honored at this event was Chief Kathy Hutchens for 20 years of service to the department.

2001 EMERGENCY RESPONSE STATISTICS

During the year, the department responded to the following types of emergencies:

EMS calls in the Village	545
EMS calls in the ETJ	34
EMS calls in the County	105
Ambulance transports	344
Fire calls in the Village	182
Fire calls in the ETJ	20
Fire calls in the county	72

- Average response time in the Village – approximately 5 minutes
- Total training Hours – 3553 hours (83 hours per member)
- Total audience for fire prevention programs – 3307 persons
- Total fire prevention inspections - 81

Visit the new official Jersey Village website for the latest community information... www.jerseyvillage.info